delays in some contracts due to problems associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, law and order problems etc. The steps taken by the Government to expedite the projects are as under:

(i) The contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants, Project Directors, Senior Officers of National Highways Authority of India. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Minister, Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

(ii) State Governments have appointed Senior Officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and are taking action to resolve the problems.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of road overbridges etc.

(iv) The procedure of issue of land acquisition notification has now been simplified. Earlier all the notifications under National Highway Act were vetted by Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of land acquisition.

(v) To expedite the construction of road overbridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with the Railways; Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited for implementation of some of the ROBs.

(vi) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

Announcement for sanction of road projects

3334. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on September, 9,2004 his Ministry announced the sanction of several projects, i.e. four-laning of Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machilipatanam Highway (NH-9), improvements (two-laning with pavement shoulders etc.) of NH-18 from Mydukur to Kurnool, Four-lanirig of NH-18 from Cuddapah to Mydukur and construction of Khajipet by-pass, four-laning of NH-18 from Tirupathi to Tiruttani, four-laning of NH-202 from Hyderabad to Yadagirigutta; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving sanction orders for the above already announced project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The following works have been identified for four-laning on Build, Operate and Transfer (B.O.T.) basis under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-Ill. Their status is given below:-

SI. No.	NH No.	Stretch	Length (in Km.)	Status
1.	9	Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machilipatanam	240.5	These works are taken up under NHDP Phase-IIIA. The preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress. The work will be taken up after completion of DPR.
2.	205 (not NH-18)	on TirupathitoTiruttani Section upto Andhra/ Tamil Nadu border	44	
3.	18	Kadapa (Cuddapah) Mydukur-Kurnool and Khajipet by-pass.	192.5	These works are taken up under NHDP Phase-IIIB. Bids for preparation of DPR have been recived and are being processed
4.	202	Hyderabad to Yadagirigutta	30	for award.

Highway building programme

3335. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after a lull, country's ambitious highways building programme has picked up speed for two projects, companies have queued up to offer National Highways Authority of India Rs. 1000 crores to build two stretches